

WITHOUT ME... (JOHN 15:5.)

There can be no building without a foundation, there can be no branch without a vine, there can be no body without the head. Our Lord Jesus is all these things to His People. Without Him we have no spiritual existence. No one would think of erecting a building without a foundation, yet people build their hopes for eternity without Christ. They build on their so called good works, or their repentance, or some strange experience they had years ago.

Everyone knows that a branch cannot exist a part from the vine, that it derives its life from the root, yet how many are not joined to Christ the vine and yet think they have life. They believe because they joined a church, or was baptized they have life.

It is impossible for a body to have life, without a head, it is dead! So it is without Christ being the head of his people.

Thank God, there is *"no other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."* (1 CORINTHIANS 3:11) A house does not build itself, we are built upon Christ Himself, our spiritual foundation is built on His Person as God-Man, upon His work on behalf of His elect, upon the Righteousness He established, imputed to those for whom he died.

Our Master said; *"I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for WITHOUT ME YE CAN DO NOTHING"* (JOHN 15:5.) It is by a vital living union with Christ that we have our spiritual life, where there is life there is fruit, there is spiritual hunger, thirst, faith, repentance, there is evidence of life.

Christ is the, *"head over all things to the church, which is His body, that filleth all in all"* (EPHESIANS 1:22-23.) He is the One from whom the body is joined together, the body gets it spiritual sense, its guidance, the body gets its spiritual wisdom. As the head of His body the church He is the one who fills us with these things, the one from whom we get spiritual understanding. He is the One who makes us function as a body, and not as individuals pulling in different directions.

"When Christ, who is our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." (COLOSSIANS 3:4.)

DON BELL

It is hard to say which is worse—the atheist who says there is no God or the religionist who maintains that God cannot do as He pleases.

SCOTT RICHARDSON

SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

February 21, 2016

"The LORD is my
shepherd;
I shall not want..."

PSALM 23:1

JOSEPH D. MURPHY, PASTOR

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February 21st, 2016

Schedule of Services

Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Evening 6:30 pm
Wednesday Worship 7:00 pm

Nursery Schedule

Today: Heather Stoneberger

Next Sunday: Georgia Harrison

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

"If the Lord had not first loved me, I never should have loved Him; and if there is any good thing in men whatsoever, it must have been implanted there by the Holy Spirit. If salvation be of works, then I can never have it; and if it be the reward of natural goodness, then I shall never have it. I feel that it must be of grace, and of grace alone."

C.H. SPURGEON

AND NOW ABIDETH (1 CORINTHIANS 13:13)

Is it really any wonder that the apostle Paul told God's people to "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."? (COLOSSIANS 3:2.) Earthly things shall fail, cease and vanish. (verse 8) Paul also wrote, "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit." (ROMANS 8:5) **Faith** is the gift of God and faith's Object is the Lord Jesus Christ. Our **hope** of eternal life is in Christ alone and that hope springs forth from the faith that God gives us. **Charity** [love] for Christ and for one another again is a result that comes from God's free-grace gift of faith. We not only love Him because He first loved us, but we love one another because He first loved us. Thank God for our **faith** in Christ, our **hope** of eternal salvation, and the **love** of God which is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit! These three, are the gift of God.

DAVID EDDMENSON

CHILDREN

"TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO..." (PROVERBS 22:6.)

One of the most difficult things I face as a preacher is children. How to speak to them is a matter in which I do not excel. One of the folks in our church asked me, 'I know we are sinners, and the Bible refers to us as worms, etc. But how do we give our children any self-worth in this life in the light of this?' What a question! Maybe this will help!

1. It is a settled fact that all are born in sin and shapen in iniquity (PSALMS 51:5). We are all estranged from the womb and go astray as soon as we are born, speaking lies (PSALM 58:3). We do teach children this great fact in order for them to see their condition before the Holy God, and their need for a righteousness which they cannot produce.
2. However, they must live in this world with some idea of self-worth, and to know the difference between worth in the eyes of man and the eyes of God. We must NOT give them self-worth in a spiritual sense. Fleshly religion is guilty of this atrocity. Let me tread on a sacred cow of religion. Children are taught the little song,

**"Jesus loves me, this I know;
For the Bible tells me so."**

So they grow into adulthood with the idea that Jesus loves them, without ever being faced with the truth that He loves only those who believe He is the Lord and Redeemer.

3. Children are worth something, and I hold them in the highest esteem. You are to be commended for living obedient, truthful, industrious lives. You fathers, don't always degrade and put down your children (EPHESIANS 6:4). Learn to commend and approve of them, keeping in mind that they must have a Saviour from sin! They are sinners in need of the atoning blood of Christ, but at the same time they have a worth, and we must let them know both of these truths.

Our children are ourselves, and that oneness with them causes that great love that molds and melts your heart.

Are your children worth anything? More than I can tell.

JACK SHANKS